



COVENANT NEWS

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY • ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Volume 23 Issue 28

Bulletin Edition

July 21, 2017

NEWS

Four families say “YES” to the Lord at FE 24



Last weekend, July 14-16, four families said yes to a weekend with the Lord. Family Encounter 24 took place at Malvern retreat house in Pennsylvania. The retreat's Spiritual Director was Msgr. Paul Schetlick and the Olaso and Larobis Families served in the Pastoral Team as Family Sharers. There were four families who took the retreat – the Maceren-Dacula, Somera, Tam and Tam /Deleon families.

The retreat wouldn't have been possible without the help of the sponsoring class , auxies , Praise, the DCS and the FLA Ministry, and everyone present there, all of whom stood behind the weekend's success and gave their unending support to all the candidates. It was a Spirit filled and fruitful weekend especially for the candidates. God's presence was felt as the families of FE#24 put their hearts and souls into each activity.

Everyone involved during this weekend was heartily moved especially during the healing and reconciliation segments of the Encounter. It is always such an amazing experience to see the grace of the Holy Spirit working. It was a weekend of openness, healing and reconciliation. ...Continued on page 4

COUNSELS

Bearing Much Fruit

THEME: We bear much fruit when our works of faith prosper the Kingdom of God.

WORD : Wis 12:13,16-19 ~ Ps 86:5-6,9-10,15-16
Rom 8:26-27 ~ Mt 13:24-43

ORDER: *Pray as we ought... intercede for the holy ones according to God's will.* (cf Rom 8:26-27)

REFLECTION:

We bear much fruit when our works of faith prosper the Kingdom of God through the mastery of God's love, His care, justice, clemency, leniency, and patience.

Jesus uses three scenarios to explain the mastery of God's love and presence, His transforming grace, His words and His works, all of which will never be in vain. In his Gospel account, St. Matthew brought this up in parables.

The first parable speaks of discernment, as in how the master determined that pulling weeds too soon could also harm the crop. Instead, he says, *"Let them grow together."* In the end, it would be made clear what to keep and what to throw out. Discernment always involves care, distinction and judgment.

The second parable speaks of full growth. With patience and care, a tiny seed can grow into a full-grown bush, one that would offer protection and dwelling for God's creatures. Full growth always involves becoming more than we are, for the good of others.



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Promise of the Week

"The righteousness will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." (Mt 12:43)

A Living Sacrifice - Priesthood in Scripture

“The chosen people was constituted by God as ‘a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’” - CCC 1539

Last week, July 11-13, in Wheeling, West Virginia, I was fortunate to have witnessed more than two hundred priests who attended the 2017 Priest’s Conference for Life-renewing Prayer, Fellowship and Study, sponsored by the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. During the course of the conference, they were inspired by wonderful and passionate speakers: Drs. Scott Hahn, John Bergsma, Brant Pitre, and Father Pablo Gadenz. Our very own Fr. Robert Lamirez (pictured below with one of the speakers, Dr. Scott Hahn) was blessed to be a part of this retreat.



The topics enkindled in them a sense of why the priesthood had its "attraction" as their chosen vocation. In one of the testimonies, a priest said this, “It almost takes us back to the beginning of the discernment process, as we experienced God’s call and we responded.”

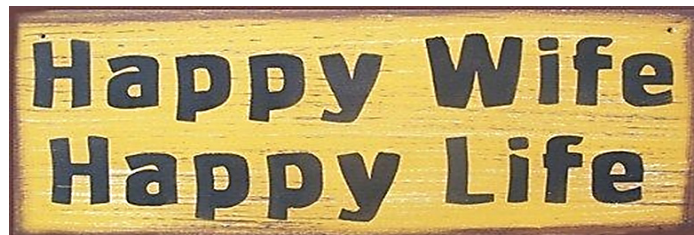
Despite their busy schedules, the priests spent time to attend this retreat, which gave them a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit to continue the work of Christ. During the fellowship time, I met some Filipino priests and asked them about their experiences during the four days. One of them responded, “This retreat made me realize how unworthy I am and the need to continue learning.” Another answered, “It was an awakening.” Another priest had this to add, “I realized the teachings I learned from Loyola Seminary were obsolete.” A fourth complimented the conference by saying, “I was tortured,” referring to how he would normally doze off at such events, but that he was always wide awake at this one because the teachings were deep, very insightful and thought-provoking. Most of them came to the realization

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The Pursuit of a Happy Life

Soon after my wife and I celebrated another wedding anniversary (we’ve just started on our 30th year as husband and wife), I found myself reflecting on just how good my life with her has been. It has really been quite a blessing.

A catchy phrase from a movie I once saw re-emerged in my thoughts:



I couldn’t help but be impressed by the wisdom of those four words, for making my wife happy had been so important to the happiness that I was feeling.

However, as true as those words are, I also found myself thinking about something even more fundamental:

“Happy God... Happiest Life.”

The truth of this stunned me.

There are many things we can pursue that bring us episodes of happiness, but for most of them, in the end, we usually find ourselves asking if there should be something more. I’ve concluded then, that the only answer that truly satisfies comes from doing everything for God. The happiest life available (regardless of whether or not one is married), comes from our efforts to make God happy.

Now, regarding that part about making my wife happy leading to my happiness, that’s really just a subset of this most important of quests. So let’s all pursue true happiness... let’s make God happy!

For truly...

When our relationship with God
is made strong,
then life’s most important relationships,
including
how we relate to our very selves,
are also strengthened...

And life continues on
as beautiful and as sumptuous as can be.

Respect Our Lord



The Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist is the greatest treasure of the Holy Catholic Church. The Catechism states that, "In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist 'the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ and therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained'" (CCC # 1374). Furthermore, the catechism states that, "The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsists." (CCC # 1377)

This real presence of Christ does not immediately end when we receive Him at communion time. The pertinent question now is how long does Jesus' real presence remain in our bodies?

It is generally assumed that the Eucharistic species of bread remains for about fifteen (15) minutes after reception. This is based on simple biology and reflects the Catechism's statement that the presence of Christ "endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsists." This is why many saints recommend offering fifteen minutes of prayer after receiving the Eucharist as a thanksgiving to God. This allows the soul to savor the presence of God and have a true "heart-to-heart" with Jesus. We need to remember Jesus' presence in the Eucharist staying with us for several minutes. This presents us with a special time when we can commune with our Lord and feel His love within us. We need to pay proper respect to our Lord. And if it is difficult to remain long after Mass, we should at least pray a brief prayer of thanksgiving. Under normal conditions, no one should leave Mass early.

Are you more like a mouse or a man?

Someone is more like a mouse when he/she moves quickly across the altar, takes a consecrated Host, partakes of the Eucharist and then just runs off.

- Does that person eat the Body of Christ? The answer is yes! The Eucharist has a reality unto itself.

- Do persons who act like a mouse receive a →→

COUNSELS

(from page 1)

The third parable speaks of transformation, as in just a little yeast gives life, softness, and readiness to dough. Transformation always involves new energy toward life, rising to new possibilities, being fashioned into new creations, much like those who have decided to live their new lives in the Spirit. We experience the Kingdom of Heaven when we discern God's will and grow into full stature as "children of the Kingdom," and when we open ourselves to become vessels of transformation until the "end of the age."

In Romans 8:26-27, St. Paul said: *"The Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit, itself, intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because He intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will."* How are we going to receive God's touch, His grace, His intervention? How are we supposed to receive this greater good after going through something bad, after being crushed, deeply hurt or disappointed?

This is where the Holy Spirit takes over as



- the Holy Spirit, Himself, will pray for us and intercede for us with sighs too deep for words. He searches our hearts and makes true intercessions on our behalf.

God's grace is limitless. He is incredibly generous. His grace is deeper, higher and wider than we can ever imagine. Our God is constantly calling us to seek His grace in order to strengthen our faith. His desire is for us to stay close ...*Continued on page 4*

→ sacrament? No, because of the absence of a rational mind. They eat the very Body of Christ, but to no avail, for there is no conscious awareness or appreciation of What or Whom he/she is eating.

- Are you, with utmost respect and adoration, consciously aware and appreciative of the very real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist?

... Are you more like a mouse or a man?

COUNSELS

(from page 3)

to the Sacraments. We should never let anything, including our emotions, prevent God from filling us with His love, peace and consolation. Jesus is our salvation. Jesus makes us righteous. He is the Truth as He gives us new life through the Spirit.

God's grace and our openness to accept that we are sinful and imperfect allow God to work in us, so that we may truly receive all that He has for us. When our lives become living testimonies of His grace, we are healed, transformed and become fruitful. God's grace makes us do good, enables us to persevere and break through to His glory!

"You, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in kindness to all who call upon You. Hearken, O LORD, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my pleading." (cf Psalm 86:5-6) In your goodness and loving care, make me bear much fruit!

DIRECTION:

Pray for the intentions of the Church and the needs of others.

Priesthood in Scripture

(from page 2)

that continued knowledge of God is needed in order to serve Him and His people.

As lay people serving in our own ministries, in BLD or in our local parishes, we too share in the three-fold mission of Christ – that of King, Prophet and Priest. We need to continue acquiring knowledge and the wisdom needed to serve our Lord Jesus. The process of conversion goes on throughout our lifetimes, so we too must continuously strive to learn and understand the "true meaning" of our faith every day.

Four families say "YES"

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As the class shepherds, the Cebedo Family will now continue to guide FE 24 in their journey. With God, nothing is impossible; regardless of the number of families that joined, truly, it's the quality and the outcome that made the weekend victorious. Thank You Lord, and to God be the glory!

Pictured below - the sponsoring class (FE 23) and auxies:



A pdf of this Covenant News and more information about BLD are available online at BLDNEWARK.com

LORD'S PROVISION

Previous Week's

Collections:	Prior Week	YTD
Tithes	\$ 1,346	\$ 38,325
Love Offerings	\$ 1,128	\$ 35,976
Mission Collections	\$ 54	\$ 3,497

Financial details are available to all members through treasury@bldnewark.com
Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

"We Walk Hand-in-Hand" Disciples' Assembly

Saturday, July 29, 2017, 1-5 pm
Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

- Knowing current BLD trends and issues, and how the Community and its leadership move to worship and serve God

Contact persons: Lisa and Joven Soriano, Joy and Raul Wong, Tatess and Tony Abad, Fe and Sundee Ikalina, Nellie and Ernest Sun

August 19, 2017
Community Celebration at the
Divine Mercy Parish

August 20, 2017
25th Anniversary Dinner Dance

- (1) If you haven't done so yet, but are planning to attend, please send in your RSVP for the Community Celebration on Aug 19.**
- (2) Regarding the 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance on Aug 20, please turn in ticket remittances to the members of the sponsoring class, ME 40, as soon as possible. They will also be at a table at fellowship this Friday, as well as on July 28.**

Marshaling	Date	Apostolate
	Jul 28	Evangelization
	Aug 4	Formation
	Aug 11	Management
	Aug 18	Mission